

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. While Applicants do not concede that this rejection is proper, these claims have been cancelled in order to advance prosecution.

Claims 1, 6-15, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slowey (US 2005/0255049) in view of Brown (5,853,894). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledges that Slowey does not teach coating the reaction vessel. However, the Examiner contends that the artisan would have combined the teachings of Brown with those of Slowey to provide Slowey's vessel with a low energy operational surface and thereby "prevent material in the vessel from sticking to the sides when removed from the vessel." Applicants respectfully disagree.

Without recourse to Applicants' own specification, there is simply nothing that would have suggested to the artisan to utilize the coatings described by Brown to prevent the formulations described in Slowey from adhering to the manufacturing vessel. While Slowey does mention the possibility of adhesion to the manufacturing equipment, at paragraph [0033], this issue is addressed in Slowey by including ethanol in the formulation (*id.*). Accordingly, the artisan would have simply added ethanol to the formulation as instructed by Slowey, and would not have been motivated to take other measures to prevent adhesion.

The Examiner notes that Slowey discloses coating elements of the formulation dispenser (Slowey, paragraphs [0041-0042]). However, Slowey explains that this is done to "enhance the chemical stability of certain formulations of the invention," rather than to inhibit adhesion to the container. If anything, this disclosure would have led the artisan to think that Slowey was aware of the option of coating surfaces that the formulations would contact, and did not consider this option necessary or suitable for the manufacturing vessel.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and all claims allowed.

Applicant : Burns et al.
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Please apply the Extension of Time fee, and any other charges or credits, to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 06275-478US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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